

CURRENT TOPICS

AN ASSOCIATED Press dispatch under date of Chicago, April 2, follows: "Headquarters of Governor John A. Johnson of Minnesota, candidate for the democratic nomination for the presidency were formally opened in the Grand Pacific hotel here today. Frederick B. Lynch, treasurer of the Minnesota democratic state central committee and a close personal friend of Governor Johnson, was placed in charge."

THE DEMOCRATIC state committee of Virginia met at Parkersburg, April 2. An Associated Press dispatch says: "After a sensational debate lasting over three hours, the democratic state executive committee of West Virginia tonight passed a resolution endorsing William J. Bryan for president."

THE CHICAGO Record-Herald of April 3 said: "Governor John A. Johnson of Minnesota is preparing to invade Illinois in the interests of his candidacy for the democratic presidential nomination, an announcement that caused much unrest among the Bryan committee last night when it met at the Briggs house to formulate plans to organize Cook county. Headquarters for the Minnesota executive were opened at the Grand Pacific hotel during the day, and the news was given out that Governor Johnson will be in Chicago for a few hours Monday morning at which time he is expected to confer with several of the local leaders. From Chicago Johnson will proceed into the south, where his friends assert he has much strength. April 11 he will deliver a speech at the dedication of the Minnesota monument on Shiloh battlefield in Tennessee, and the following Monday he will appear before the Commercial club of Louisville, where he is expected to deliver his first big political address. The Johnson men say that Louisville was picked as the place for making the first enunciation on national issues and principles because it was the original home of the Johnson boom, Henry W. Watterson being the first democrat of national prominence to groom the Minnesota man as a 'dark horse' for the presidency. Last summer Johnson made a tour through the southern states into which he will journey next week, and his supporters assert that at that time plenty of indications were discovered that with little labor a good crop of delegates could be harvested in that section. On his return from Louisville Governor Johnson will spend April 14 in Chicago, where he will be guest of honor at a luncheon and reception at the Press club. Oddly enough this is the date set for the return of John P. Hopkins from Europe."

AN ASSOCIATED Press dispatch under date of Washington, April 5, tells this story of the Johnson and Gray booms: "Supporters of George Gray of Delaware as the democratic nominee for president have completed arrangements for establishing headquarters in Washington, and tomorrow they will actively enter upon a campaign in behalf of the Delaware statesman. Richard J. Beemish of Philadelphia, who will be in charge of the bureau, states that the movement is being made without the aid or encouragement of Judge Gray, who, it is known, has not said a word nor done anything that can be construed as seeking the nomination. The fund that is to finance the Washington headquarters has been subscribed, it is said, by a few people of Delaware and Pennsylvania. The work to be done will be supplemented by that of a similar bureau in Judge Gray's home town, Wilmington. A league of Gray clubs is also in process of formation. The work of this organization, according to Mr. Beemish, will be done largely in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, the New England states and the south. The presidential boom of John A. Johnson was today launched upon the capital and congress with true western originality, when to every Washington correspondent and democratic congressman was handed a special delivery letter mailed directly from the newly established headquarters of the Minnesota governor in Chicago. The letter was

signed by Frederick B. Lynch, treasurer of the Minnesota democratic committee, and transmitted a printed pamphlet setting out concisely the points of availability of Governor Johnson as the democratic presidential candidate and giving a terse review of his public services."

AN ASSOCIATED Press dispatch from Des Moines, Ia., April 2, follows: "Mr. Bryan was kept busy from the time of his arrival in Des Moines in the early morning until late at night, making speeches, greeting the prominent democrats who came from every part of the state and holding conferences. His speeches during the day were non-political. His first address of the day was made at St. Joseph's academy, then followed in quick succession others at Des Moines college, Drake college, during the morning. After luncheon he spoke to the Bryan Volunteers at 2 o'clock in the afternoon; to the students of East high school at 4 o'clock and to a great crowd in University Church of Christ at 5 p. m. The whole day was suggestive of Mr. Bryan's famous campaigning of 1896 and he stood the strain well, although showing signs of weariness at night. This evening's banquet was attended by several hundred democrats, a hundred or more of them from out of the state. Bryan's reception was a remarkable one, even for friendly Iowa, and the result of his visit has been an injection of new enthusiasm into the democrats of what has been considered a hopelessly republican state. Governor Haskell of Oklahoma, divided honors with Mr. Bryan this afternoon and at the banquet. He arrived with a large party of Oklahomans, including State Treasurer J. A. Menefee and National Committeeman Tate Brady."

EVEN SO important a member of Mr. Roosevelt's political household as William Allen White of Emporia, Kan., attacks Uncle Joe. In paying a tribute to his friend, Congressman Murdock, Mr. White said: "What other Kansas congressman, truckling to Speaker Cannon, has done half as much? It doesn't pay to knuckle down to Cannon. He is a vain, stupid, arrogant old mossback, and if congressmen from Kansas think Cannon is bigger than the people, the time has come to change the congressmen from Kansas. Congressman Murdock has proved himself a real man. And he has made it pay—pay for the people if not for Congressman Murdock—whom Cannon will not speak to, because Murdock is honest. What a gorgeous compliment! What other Kansas congressman ever had as much honor?"

ELMER H. YOUNGMAN, editor of the New York Banker's Magazine, voices the opposition of some bankers to the Aldrich currency bill in this letter to the New York Evening Post: "The currency bill now before the house of representatives, known as the Aldrich bill, and which has recently passed the senate, is a direct and serious menace to American prosperity. In the past ten years the circulation of the national banks has increased from a total of about \$200,000,000 to over \$600,000,000. Now it is proposed by the Aldrich bill to provide for an addition of \$500,000,000 more of this form of money to our circulation, at a single stroke. This tremendous increase of the country's paper money is to be made without requiring the coin reserves of the banks to be strengthened to the extent of a single dollar. This is inflation of a dangerous character, second only to the free coinage of silver or the unlimited issue of greenbacks. It will help to engender conditions that will bring about the most terrific panic this country, or any other country, has ever known. At present the high rates for money usually prevailing in the fall act as a check tending to restrain speculation. This salutary restraint will be wholly removed by the Aldrich bill. The six per cent tax will prove no bar to inflation, since the extra supplies of currency will be needed for so short a time that the cost of the tax will be trifling. There will thus be, at all times, a practically unlimited

supply of funds available for speculation. Real estate boomers, gold, copper and stock speculators are already getting ready for the harvest, and if this bill becomes a law we shall shortly witness the wildest outburst of speculation the country has ever known. By passing the Aldrich bill we will inform the world that we have provided our security markets with a practically unlimited supply of stimulant in the shape of paper 'money,' and that we have no intention of reforming, but that we mean to keep up the speculative debauch. Let no one imagine that the emergency currency provided in the Aldrich bill is analogous to that issued by the Imperial Bank of Germany. The German banknotes are secured, invariably, by one-third cash and two-thirds short-term commercial paper. If the Aldrich bill becomes a law, it will be the sowing of the wind from which a whirlwind of panic, disaster, and distress will be reaped. To work for the defeat of this bill is the duty of every patriotic American."

A WRECK occurred on the Burlington railroad at Spanish Lake, fifteen miles north of St. Louis. A number of passengers were seriously injured. The Associated Press tells this stirring story of the wreck: "J. A. McKittrick, a stockman of Brookfield, was pinned under the wreckage by his left leg, which was nearly crushed off at the knee. Scalding steam from the passenger locomotive was threatening him and to save McKittrick's life, Rev. R. C. Allen of Grove City, Pa., cut off the leg with a pocket knife. With the scalding steam pouring upon him McKittrick pulled out his knife and handing it to Mr. Allen, who was trying to extricate the man from the wreckage, commanded the minister to cut off the crushed leg and save him from being scalded. Mrs. Emma Renner, a trained nurse from Cincinnati, a passenger, pressed a bottle of whiskey to McKittrick's lips and told him to drink. The steam increased. 'Cut off that leg. I can't stay here and die,' shouted McKittrick. Mr. Allen began cutting at the tendons with the knife. It was dull, and McKittrick suffered intense agony. 'Throw it away and get an axe,' he finally cried out. But Mr. Allen continued and finally severed the tendons at the joint and McKittrick was carried into a car where Mrs. Renner made a tourniquet of her veil and staunching the flow of blood, and then gave him opiates. Later he was brought to a St. Louis hospital. Mr. Allen, who performed the amputation, is a Covenant minister, sixty years of age."

PPOINTING OUT that the predatory interests have hitched on a rider to the Hepburn bill in order to obtain for it the support of the laboring men, the Omaha World-Herald says: "The Hepburn bill should be separated into two distinct measures, in order that each of two important questions it involves might be voted on according to its own merits. As the bill stands, it contains a just and necessary provision on the one hand, and one that is nothing short of damnable on the other. Consequently, a member opposed to the bill because it grants amnesty and immunity to the trusts, can not vote against it without at the same time voting against the assurance of the right to continued existence which it conveys to trades unionism. He may wish to support the one provision and oppose the other, but as the issue presents itself he must support both or oppose both. This is neither an honest nor a brave method of presenting such issues to congress and to the country. Especially it is not fair to organized labor, with its very life endangered, that its safety should be made dependent on the willingness of congress to surrender unconditionally the fight against trusts and private monopolies. It is a known and admitted fact that President Roosevelt, in the preparation of this bill, conferred with representatives of J. Pierpont Morgan, T. F. Ryan and the Rockefeller and Vanderbilt interests. It is known also that he had the advice of President Gompers of the Federation of Labor. It is easy to understand that the representatives of consolidated capital realized that some slight concession must, for political